

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 004655

62

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 004655

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: CALL ON SECRETARY BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY. DISCUSSION ON PL 480 BETWEEN SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR KAUL REPORTED STATE 3613. THIS MESSAGE COVERS OTHER TOPICS. END SUMMARY.

2. JOINT COMMISSION. THE SECRETARY TOLD AMBASSADOR KAUL HE HAD MET YESTERDAY WITH THE AMERICAN CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE JOINT COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES TO EMPHASIZE HIS STRONG BACKING FOR THE STRUCTURE AND HIS DESIRE FOR IN-NOVATIVE AND CONCRETE PROPOSALS BY THE TIME FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN ARRIVES. THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT AGRICULTURE WAS ONE AREA IN WHICH HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED. AMBASSADOR KAUL SAID INDIA ALSO PLACES GREAT VALUE ON THE COMMISSION. HE GAVE THE SECRETARY A COPY OF A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS THE INDIANS HAD MADE FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION AGENDA.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 004655

3. CHAVAN VISIT. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO BE IN BUENOS AIRES FOR THE LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING BEGINNING MARCH 18 AND WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE CHAVAN'S COMING AS CLOSE TO MARCH 13 AS POSSIBLE, OR PERHAPS EARLIER IN THE WEEK OF MARCH 10.

4. TRADE BILL. AMBASSADOR KAUL PRESENTED THE SECRETARY

AN AIDE MEMOIRE EXPRESSING INDIAN DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT RESTRICTIONS LIMITING VALUE OF GSP. (TEXT BY SEPTTEL). KAUL ELABORATED THAT INDIANS ESTIMATED THAT ROUGHLY 80 PER CENT OF ITEMS ON WHICH THEY STOOD TO GAIN BY GSP WERE ELIMINATED FROM BILL.

5. BANGLADESH. KAUL ASKED ABOUT SECRETARY'S IMPRESSIONS OF BANGLADESH. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION THERE SEEMED HOPELESS., BUT ATTITUDES TOWARD INDIA SEEMED GOOD. HE HAD HEARD NO CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT INDIA AND SENSED NO TENSION IN RELATIONS.

6. PAKISTAN - ARMS POLICY. KAUL SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO REPORT THAT INDO-PAK RELATIONS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE. TRADE RELATIONS WERE NOW TO BE RESUMED. KAUL SAID HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN U.S. ARMS SUPPLY POLICY WHEN BHUTTO COMES IN FEBRUARY AS THIS WOULD INCREASE TENSIONS IN SOUTH ASIA AND STIMULATE AN ARMS RACE. KISSINGER

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